

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice solely in view of their status as non-elected claims. New Claim 8 has been added to recite that the screw is an Archimedean, helical screw. This is supported at page 6, third paragraph. As pointed out in Applicants' previous response, the geometry of the single screw has been derived from the ancient Archimedes screw.

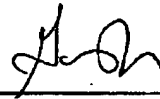
The Office cites cavity transfer mixers wherein product is pumped between two cylinders, a stator and a rotor, with a narrow annulus. Cavities are opposed on the cylinder surfaces. The spread flow has to be pressed by a pump through the narrow space between rotor and stator. In contrast, the screw of the invention is an effective low shear conveyor even of highly viscous materials and therefore - in contrast to the Cavity Transfer Mixer - a high energy pump can be dispensed with (page 9). This functionality has the advantage that the cooling device will not freeze during temporary, but frequent interruptions of the production flow wherein the line is cluttered by crystallized fat. With a Cavity Transfer Mixer, as with the traditional scraped surface heat exchanger, only by heating the line are its contents liquefied; and subsequently these must be recirculated for renewed processing.

New Claim 8 follows the suggestion of the Office and specifies that the screw is Archimedean and helical. This clearly distinguishes over the CTMs which, again, are distinct from the instant screws and require a pump.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4, without prejudice.

Please add new claim 8, as follows:

8. (New) The process according to claim 5 wherein the screw is an Archimedean, helical screw.

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